

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Tuesday, 24 June 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Exclusive

Tuesday, 24 June 2008

Conspiracy At Taylor's Trial?

By Alphonsus Zeon
and Adolphus Williams
in The Hague

The trial of the former
Liberian president,
Charles Taylor this week

heard additional evi-
dence of his alleged sup-
port to the RUF rebels, his
connections with Arabs
in the diamond trade as
well as the role of his son,

Continued page 2

Conspiracy At Taylor's Trial?

From front page

Chuckie in human rights abuses in the region.

Prosecution witness, TF1-590, a Sierra Leonean exile living in Europe, who is also due to later testify against Chuckie in the United States, said Taylor supplied arms to the RUF and had Arabs buying diamonds from RUF rebels.

The witness told the court that he had spoken with a team of United States Federal prosecutors including Assistant US Attorney, FBI and Immigration and custom agents.

During questioning, Taylor's lead lawyer, Courtney Griffiths said he suspected the Special Court prosecutors and United States Federal Prosecutors were working together in prosecuting Taylor and his son.

Griffiths asked TF1-590 whether during interviews with US Federal prosecutors he had told them about Taylor's dealings with Arabs. The witness answered in the affirmative. Griffiths said that when TF1-590 had given an earlier testimony to prosecution investigators on two different occasions in 2007 in which he had made no mention of Arabs being diamond merchants of Charles Taylor as he suggested Monday.

The witness had testified earlier and said that he had been arrested to-

gether with two other Sierra Leoneans accused of being Kamajor civil militia fighters and were taken on the ATU Gbatata Base in Bong County, in central Liberia which was commanded by Chuckie Taylor.

The witness said that Taylor did send a message that he wanted to set eyes on the suspected Kamajor fighters. TF1-590 said they were blind-folded and thrown into the back of a jeep headed for Monrovia, with their hands and feet tied.

At Taylor's White Flower home, the witness continued, they met the former Liberian president in pyjamas who allegedly asked the witness and his colleagues if they were the Kamajors sent to overthrow his government.

Another witness who took the stand during the week, 34-year-old RUF Radio Operator, Alice Pyne said RUF commander Issa Sesay took diamonds from Sierra Leone to Charles Taylor in Liberia to take back arms in return. "What I learned in Buedu from Major Sellay and Sebato who were in the Buedu station told me that Issa Sesay went with those diamonds to Charles Taylor so that he would bring arms and ammunition. I learnt that when he went to Liberia he was lodged at a hotel according to his

explanation. It was at that hotel he lost the diamonds," he said.

Alice went on that RUF Battle group commander, Sam Bockarie alias Mosquito, also brought weapons from Liberia and distributed them to junior commanders like Superman. She said Taylor's support to the rebels went beyond arms and ammunition, alleging the former Liberian president also sent seven persons believed to possess magical powers to protect rebel fighters in their attempt to retake the Kono district.

Charles Taylor's lawyers said that Alice was not present when Sam Bockarie returned from Liberia and could not testify to what he might have brought with him. They tried to contradict the witness's evidence that Taylor had supplied arms to the RUF and read out what another Prosecution witness, TF1-516, had told the court in April concerning the source of ammunition for the RUF.

Defence lawyer, Anyah said that despite mounting evidence that Taylor sent NPFL commanders to fight alongside RUF in Sierra Leone, Major Sally Duwai and Col. Daniel Tamba, alias Col. Jungle were ordinary Liberian NPFL fighters who crossed over to Sam Bockarie after they were cut off during fighting between the NPFL and another Liberian rebel group, ULIMO-K, in Lofa County.

New Democrat (Liberia)


Tuesday, 24 June 2008

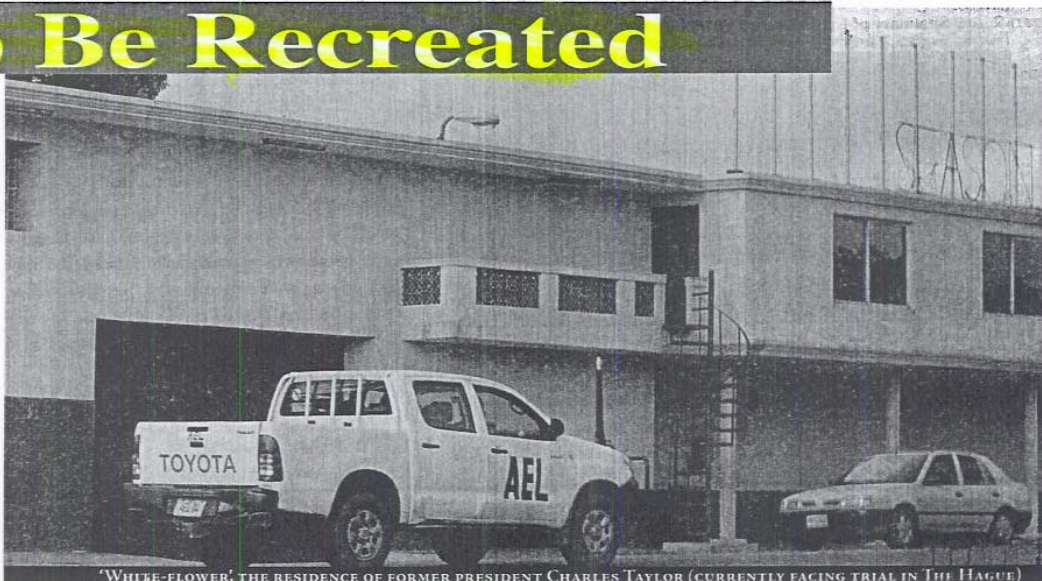
'White-flower' Crime Scene To Be Recreated

Residents around White Flower, the roadside home of former President Charles Taylor, say US Marines this week mapped out the area to reconstruct a crime scene, but the claim could not be verified.

A spokesman for Mr Taylor's family, Sando Johnson, however confirmed that Americans were in the area, claiming they forcibly entered and took photographs. Others interviewed said the Americans did not enter, but that they were around the periphery of the sprawling compound that has featured prominently during the on going trial of Mr. Taylor. Many witnesses have recounted meetings within it related to the charges.

Police said a writ from the Special Court, which had to go through local court, could not be effected because the caretaker refused to take it. Police said the writ was search and seizure warrant. Mr Taylor's residence has been searched with protests from his lawyers, which the court upheld. A court magistrate said the writ could not be served because there was no one on whom to serve the writ.

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'WHITE-FLOWER', THE RESIDENCE OF FORMER PRESIDENT CHARLES TAYLOR (CURRENTLY FACING TRIAL IN THE HAGUE)

'White-flower'

Mr Johnson, a one-time Legislator and loyalist of the former President, threatened he would shoot 10 bullets if anyone attempted to shoot their way into the building, saying he would capture their weapons since he has none.

He said the decision of the court to search Mr. Taylor's residence was criminal and he will mobilize his men to demonstrate against the action of the court. "They don't have evidence, they have come to plant bomb and dash papers here to say Mr. Taylor have something kept here, but they are lying he will come back free" Johnson said.

The Independent (Liberia)
Tuesday, 24 June 2008

Special Court Hunts For Taylor's CIA DOCS

-AS US Negotiates For His Release

MONROVIA: The Special UN-back Court on Sierra Leone Sunday June 22, 2008 reportedly searched the residence of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in Congo, outside Monrovia, first of its kind to have happened since the court began the trial of Mr. Taylor in The Hague, Netherlands, but the Court officials have denied the allegation.

The former Liberian President is facing 11 counts of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity for abetting in the Sierra Leone civil war, but he had pleaded not guilty of the crimes levied against him.

One of Mr. Taylor's Associates and a member of his family, Sando Johnson, who made the disclosure, termed the court's search as illegal.

The Court officials, according to Mr. Johnson, were escorted to the former President's home in Congo Town, with the aid of the Liberia National Police (LNP), brandishing with heavy weaponry reportedly entered with force and carried out the search.

Furthermore, Mr. Johnson

said, he saw some representatives of the Ellen-led government who were led by Assistant Commissioner of Police for Operations, Darlington Wreh and the court officials, with the aid of police, forcibly broke into the gate and entered Mr. Taylor's residence.

Mr. Sando Johnson, a former member of the Legislature (Parliament) said the Ellen-led government and the Special Court are "planting things in the former Liberian President's residence. He is quoted as saying that the court's officials ransacked Mr. Taylor's residence with the intention of using those things they are planting against the former Liberian President at the ongoing trial in The Hague.

Another family source

said the Special Court perhaps believe that Mr. Taylor's residence is hiding sensitive state documents including letters from former US President George Bush, the US current administration; State Department (Collin Powell) and ECOWAS Abuja's communiqué on Taylor intervention in Sierra Leone as well as ECOWAS/AU arrangement for Taylor exiled in Nigeria among others.

Recently, former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman Cohen told Liberia's Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in the United States that his government supported Mr. Taylor to take state power during the Liberian civil war in 1990.

Also Taylor's vice Moses Blah, who succeeded him, disclosed several top war secrets of the then NPFL. He alleged that his boss' (Taylor) who led the rebellion of the disbanded National Pa-

By Our Staff Writer
triotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) got both military and financial supports from Libya and Burkina Faso during the civil war. Former President Blah alleged in his testimony when he appeared before the Special Court, that Taylor's men were trained in Libya and Burkina Faso before launching their attack near the Ivorian border with Liberia.

While the Blah's flare of war was still roaming the minds of Liberians, former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman Cohen at the TRC hearing in the US revealed his government's role in the Liberian civil war.

Mr. Cohen told the TRC hearings that the US wanted Mr. Charles Taylor in power and not the late President Samuel Doe, who was captured before the eyes of West African

Cont'd on page 6



Former President Charles Taylor



Special Court Prosecutor Steven Rapp

80 000 Metric Tonnes

The Independent, Tuesday, June 24, 2000

Special Court

peacekeepers at the Freeport of Monrovia September 9, 1990.

He further told the hearings that America wanted the NPFL to take power following the evacuation of the late President Samuel Kanyon Doe through a corridor leading to the Sierra Leonean border with Liberia.

In a TRC release issued last Thursday, Mr. Cohen explained that "due to huge human sufferings in Monrovia in 1990, the US initiated discussions with President Doe through its Ambassador for "President Doe to be evacuated." The TRC release said former Secretary Cohen maintained that once President Doe left the country, Mr. Taylor would have moved into the capital and installed his government.

He said the discussion had the blessings of the late President Gnyasingbe Eyadema of Togo, who also agreed at that time to provide asylum for the late President Doe apparently because both men were personal friends.

According to Mr. Cohen, the plan was "messed up" by the then leader of the defunct Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) General (retired) Prince Y. Johnson, now Senior Senator of Nimba County, by taking control of Bushrod Island and blocking the corridor agreed upon for the late Doe to be evacuated from Monrovia, something according to Secretary Cohen, made Washington change its engagements to end the Liberia crisis. He however, failed to state the reasons behind the new policy provided by former US President George Bush, Sr.

Mr. Cohen further accentuated that responsibilities to end the Liberian civil war were passed over to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

However, in response to Ambassador Cohen's assertions, Senator Prince Y. Johnson said America was on "double deals" with the Liberian civil war. Senator Johnson told Star Radio that nothing was in the Americans' plan of action for he and his INPFL men or what could become of them after Mr. Taylor had taken over as head of state.

Responding last Monday, Senator Johnson said during the height of the war, he was summoned from the "battle front" by Mr. Cohen and US Ambassador to Liberia Peter Devos at the US Embassy near Monrovia for an "important message from President George Bush Sr." He said at that "meeting, I was told by Mr. Cohen and Ambassador Devos to open a corridor at the Freeport of Monrovia to evacuate President Doe and allow Charles Taylor take state power".

Mr. Johnson said but he refused to give in, saying, "I refused, because there was nothing in the plan for me and my men. My refusal to open the corridor is what Mr. Cohen is referring to as my being wild and under the influence of drugs".

The Nimba County lawmaker noted that the same Mr. Cohen offered him a highly chemically infected tobacco, which he refused because according to him, the tobacco was not good for his health.

However, Mr. Taylor's associates in Monrovia are tightlipped on the latest revelations coming from a senior American diplomat who also ordered Mr. Taylor to withdraw his fighters from the Monrovia City Hall to Paynesville in 1990. Monrovia City Hall is few meters from the Executive Mansion, the official residence of the nation's President.

Meanwhile, latest reports reaching this paper say there are indications that a tripartite discussion is currently being held between the United States, Mr. Taylor's camps and Libya for the release of Mr. Taylor.

Some national and international influential individuals are said to be making frantic negotiations and efforts to ensure the release of Mr. Taylor, having realized that he (Taylor) was reportedly hired by the US Government with the aid of some exiled Liberian politicians including President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Dr. Amos Sawyers, Harry Greaves to name a few to lead a rebellious group to topple the late President Doe regime, who they claimed was a dictator and dehumanizing Liberians.

The reports further say Mr. Taylor performed covert operations for the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and served as covert director of CIA West Africa network prior to the formation of his NPFL.

Mr. Taylor in 1983 fled Liberia to the US while 'serving as' Deputy Commerce Minister for Administration. He feared being linked to the over US\$3m that was given the General Services Agency (GSA) by the Doe regime. The money was reportedly given for bulk purchasing while he was Director General of the GSA. Mr. Taylor was arrested in the US upon the request of President Doe in compliance with an "extradition treaty" at the time between the Liberian and US governments.

But while he was in detention, pending expatriation to Liberia, some exiled Liberian politicians in the US allegedly pleaded with the US government to free him (Mr. Taylor) from detention on grounds that he was a strong man to contract; whom they believe would assist the US to lead the operation to unseat the entrenched Doe regime. Their plea was after the first invasion led by the late Thomas Quiwonkpa, a former Commanding General of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to topple the regime failed in 1985.

Snowe Under

for his expulsion from the national Legislature.

Mr. Dillon, who defended his former boss in the bribery case, said he was calling for his expulsion for "lying" on the members of the House. Mr. Dillon said for his former boss (Snowe) to accept the report was an indication that the former Speaker is part of the ploy to bring the House into public dispute, arguing "since the report said Snowe never had substantial evidence and should be suspended for one month and he accepted same, it shows that Snowe lacks the will power to prove his case and as such the former Speaker should be expelled by his colleagues."

Besides Snowe's aide calling for his expulsion, several residents of District Number 5 in Montserrado County are also calling for similar action against their representative. A leading pro-democracy campaigner, Dan Sayeh has been meeting residents of Snowe's District to call him (Snowe) for meeting to pro-

National Chronicle (Liberia)
 Tuesday, 24 June 2008

Mr. ZUMO WONEE

Continued on page 2

For Issuing Threats Against Johnson: who completed his tour of duty in 2007.

LAWSUIT HANGS OVER POLICE DIRECTOR

Former Bomi County representative and spokesman of the Taylor's family has threatened a law suit against deputy police director, Sam Siryon for alleged issuance of terroristic threats against him, during the recent search of former President Taylor's residence in Congo Town; Stephen Doito reports.

In an interview with the National Chronicle, Johnson said he has informed the Minister of Justice and the director of

police on the matter and said he was taking the threats seriously.

According to Johnson the assistant director of police has threaten to eliminate him, since he has been a stumbling block to government operations.

Meanwhile, Johnson has disclosed that he has lodged an official complaint to the government in connection to the threats on his

life.

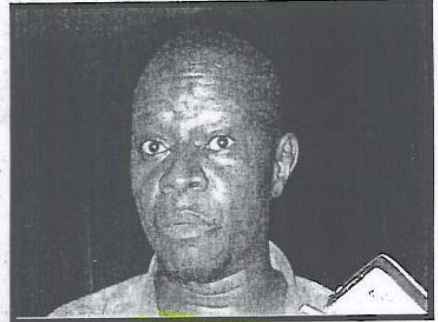
In a related development director Siryon has denied the allegation, saying he never came in contact with Johnson.

It can be recalled that Special Court officials backed by heavily armed personnel of the Liberia National Police, reportedly searched the compound of former president Taylor on Sunday June 22, 2008.

The court officials later denied ever entering the compound of the detained former Liberian President.

Taylor has been indicted by the UN backed Special Court of Sierra Leone for war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone.

Taylor is currently facing trial at the Hague in the Netherlands on all counts charged.



Mr. Sando Johnson

The Analyst (Liberia)
Tuesday, 24 June 2008

Taylor's Arab Connection Revealed



Former President Taylor

The trial of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor this week heard additional evidence of his alleged support to the RUF rebels, his connections with Arabs in the diamond trade as well as the role of his son, Chuckie in human rights abuses in the region. Prosecution witness, TF1-590, a Sierra Leonean exile living in Europe, who is also due to later testify against Chuckie in the United States, said Taylor supplied arms to the RUF and had Arabs buying diamonds from RUF rebels. The witness told the court that he had spoken with a team of United States Federal prosecutors including Assistant US Attorney, FBI and Immigration and custom agents. During questioning, Taylor's lead lawyer, Courtney Griffiths said he suspected the Special Court

prosecutors and United States Federal Prosecutors were working together in prosecuting Taylor and his son.

Griffiths asked TF1-590 whether during interviews with US Federal prosecutors he had told them about Taylor's dealings with Arabs. The witness answered in the affirmative. Griffiths said that when TF1-590 had given an earlier testimony to prosecution investigators on two different occasions in

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The witness had testified earlier and said that he had been arrested together with two other Sierra Leoneans accused of being Kamajor civil militia fighters and were taken on the ATU Gbatata Base in Bong County, in central Liberia which was commanded by Chuckie Taylor.

The witness said that

Taylor did send a message that he wanted to set eyes on the suspected Kamajor fighters. TF1-590 said they were blindfolded and thrown into the back of a jeep headed for Monrovia, with their hands and feet tied.

At Taylor's White Flower home, the witness continued, they met the former Liberian president in pyjamas who allegedly asked the witness and his colleagues if they were the Kamajors sent to overthrow his government.

Another witness who took the stand during the week, 34-year-

See story on page 10

New Democrat (Liberia)
Tuesday, 24 June 2008

Lawyer Accuses US Of Hunting Father & Son

Mr. Griffiths Courtenay, former President Charles Taylor's lead lawyer, has accused the US of going after Mr. Taylor and his son, Chucky Taylor simultaneously.

The lawyer made the claim during his cross-examination of a protected witness, a Sierra Leonean living in Europe who slated to testify against Mr Taylor's son, Chucky Taylor, jailed in the US for human rights abuses, etc.

The witness, TF1-590, repeated claims of several witnesses of Arab operatives in the war, primarily to buy diamonds from RUF rebels in exchange for weapons.

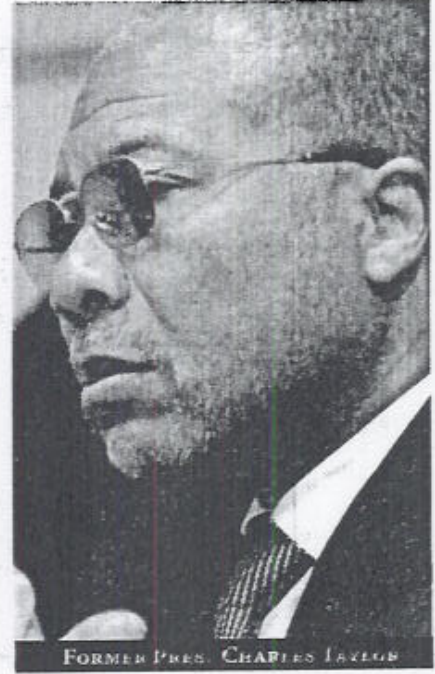
He said he has had contacts with a team of United States Federal prosecutors including Assistant US Attorney, FBI and Immigration and custom agents.

Under cross-examination, Mr. Griffiths said he suspected the Special Court prosecutors and United States Federal Prosecutors were working together in prosecuting Taylor and his son.

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MR. GRIFFITHS COURTENAY



FORMER PRES. CHARLES TAYLOR

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Hunting Father & Son

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Alice went on that RUF Battle group commander, Sam Bockarie alias Mosquito, also brought weapons from Liberia and distributed them to junior commanders like Superman. She said Taylor's support to the rebels went beyond arms and ammunition, alleging the former Liberian president also sent seven persons believed to possess magical powers to protect rebel fighters in their attempt to retake the Kono district.

The Monitor (Liberia)
Monday, 23 June 2008

Vol. 3 No. 96 Monday, June 23, 2008 Price: L\$ 20.00

Special Court men, police others storm Taylor's 'White Flower'

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'White Flower'

By James B. Bleetan II

Former Bomi County Lawmaker Sando Johnson has alarmed that the Government of Liberia and the Special Court prosecuting former President Charles Ghankay Taylor are "planting things in the residence of Mr. Taylor in Monrovia that could be used against him (Taylor) in ongoing trial at The Hague."

Mr. Johnson said representatives of the government led by former presidential aide and Assistant Commissioner of Police for Operations Darlington Wreh and the Special Court allegedly ransacked the home of Mr. Taylor early Sunday Morning without any prior notice.

He explained that government security "armed to the teeth" held the security guard on duty, Stanley Sonkarlay, at gun point while the men entered the house with "huge baggage."

He described the action by the government and the special Court as an intention to force evidence against the former Liberian leader.

Mr. Johnson said for the past week, unknown individuals, including some armed men, have been keeping close surveillance on the residence of the former Liberian leader. He added that the surveillance team included a helicopter.

He cited vehicles in the surveillance as bearing license plates: 1 CD 177; 1CD 158; and 1 CD 180.

According to Mr. Johnson, the legal defense team of Mr. Taylor has been duly informed about the "criminal behavior" of the government and the Special Court and has accordingly advised that "absolutely no one enters the home until otherwise ordered."

Security guard Stanley Sonkarlay, who also spoke to **The Monitor**

Sunday afternoon, said about eleven men spent more than 35 minutes in the house and some of them climbed into the ceiling and on top of the fence, but could not say whether the men planted anything in the house.

"My brother was held at gunpoint in the fence by men wearing uniforms similar to the Liberian National Police and could not move about freely, so it is difficulty to say what they were doing," Mr. Sonkarlay said.

He said the team including Caucasians and blacks also visited the residences of former Special Security Service Director Benjamin Yeaten and his deputy Joseph Montgomery.

Residents of the community confirmed that there have been constant visitations by Liberian security and men believed to have come from the Special Court in The Hague.

They however complained that the men were constantly visiting the residences without any search warrant.

However, Attorney Syrenius Cephus who was called on the scene by angry supporters of Mr. Taylor claimed the search contravened Article 11.2 of the Criminal procedure Law of Liberia; in that the warrant is believed to be in the possession of a Liberian court officer did not say exactly what they were looking for.

He said the men have gone there to carry out what he called "reconstruction of the crime scene" something he noted was done under dubious intend.

Attorney Cepus told our reporter that the men included officials of the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, the United Nations and police officers who bulldozed their way into the home of Mr. Taylor and shut the doors for more than 35 minutes, adding I am afraid that something sinister might have taking place in the house.

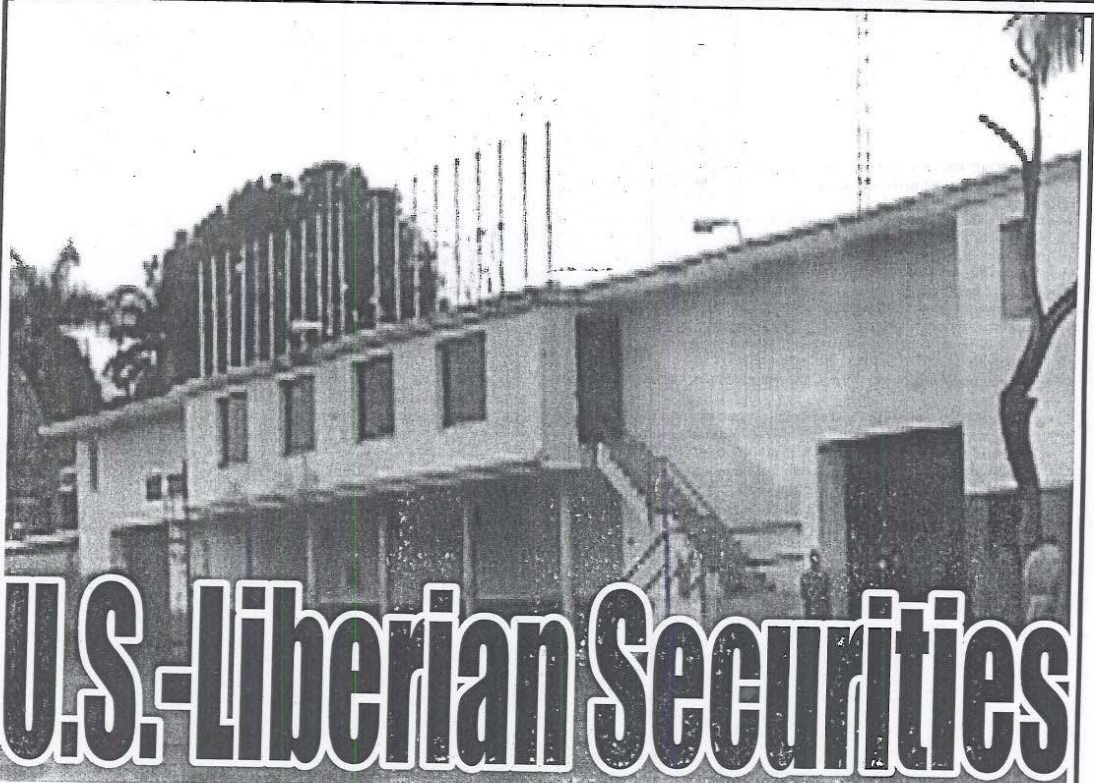
He said was important to note is the role of the Liberian government; suggesting that it (government) is serving as the sheriff of the Special Court prosecuting Mr. Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Up to press time attempts by reporter to contact the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia and the United Nations proved futile.

Public Agenda (Liberia)
Monday, 23 June 2008

PUBLIC AGENDA <i>Leading A Nation To Nobility</i>	PUL Award Winner 2006/07 LIBERIA'S No.1 NEWSPAPER
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Vol.2 No 125 Monday, June 23, 2008, Monrovia, Liberia • Motto: Setting An Agenda With Honesty • LD 20
www.publicagenda.info • Email: agendapublic@yahoo.com or pa@publicagenda.info



U.S.-Liberian Securities Invade Taylor's White Flower

-Former First Family Suspects Foul Play

As legal battle rages in The Hague to determine the guilt or innocence of former Liberian President Charles Taylor charged for war crimes in the Sierra Leonean civil war, the multi-million-dollar home of the subject has fallen to spontaneous cordon and search of security forces from the American embassy near Monrovia, back by armed Liberian police. But as **Zeze Evans Ballah** reports, the invasion of Taylor's home, called White Flower, was greeted fierce resistance from fanatics and family sources of the ex-president.

See story on page 7

U.S.-Liberian Securities Invade Taylor's White Flower

Hell broke loose at the residence of former Liberian President Charles Taylor when angry mob booted and nearly attack a U.S. Embassy motorcade carrying United States securities and some armed Liberian Police officers.

The combined American and Liberian security agents had entered the so-called "White Flower" of Taylor as early as about 9 am Sunday.

The US Embassy and Liberian security team was accompanied by a Sheriff from the Temple of Justice.

When our reporter went on the scene, the man who claimed to be in charge of the properties of ex-President Taylor, Sando Johnson, was fuming with anger, hauling invectives at the security officers whom he described as invaders.

Johnson said that the U.S. Securities with the backing of the Liberian Government forcefully entered Taylor's house.

He said the "invaders" must have entered Taylor's house to smuggle inside it an implicative material in order to cook up some sort of evidence against Mr. Taylor.

Johnson said the team availed to him a writ from the court, but stated that he could not give credence to the writ because the action by the Americans was unlawful and provocative since it was taken on Sunday, which is not a working day in Liberia.

"How can you come to effect a search of the home of a citizen on Sunday, which is not a working day in Liberia," he lamented. "All courts are closed on Sundays."

He said the team forced their way into the house and could not say what they did there.

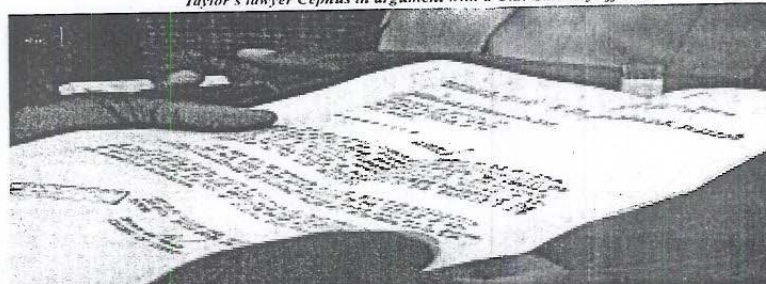
"It is unacceptable that the Government of Liberia will connive with the Americans to come and force a former President of Liberia guilty by manufacturing evidence against him," Sando Johnson said further. "The people keep going into and coming out of the house. Who knows what they have already planted in it."

"What happened here today," Sando Johnson said, "was a glaring show of strength by the Americans to unlawfully do any thing they want to do and go with impunity in Liberia."

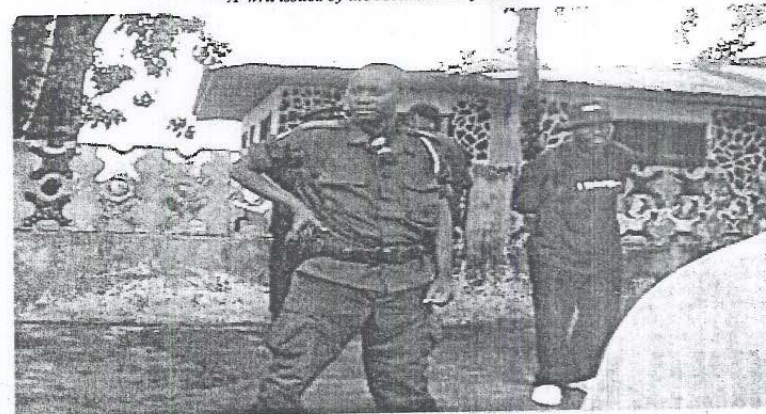
Our reporter could neither



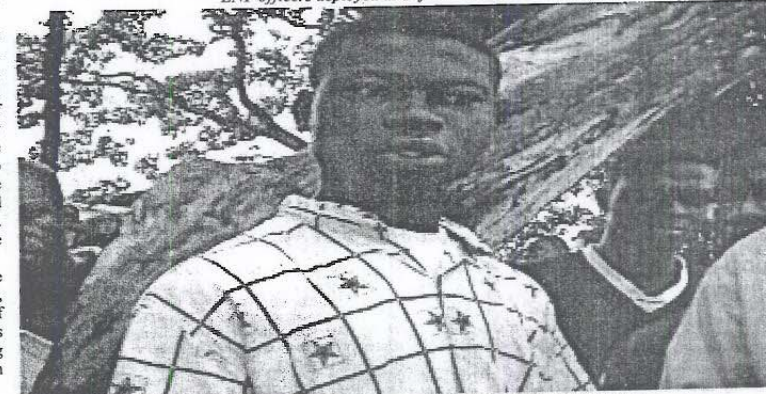
Taylor's lawyer Cephus in argument with a U.S. Embassy official



A writ issued by the Monrovia City Court



LNP officers deployed at Taylor's house



Charles Taylor's housekeeper explaining his side of the story

talk to any of the men from the U.S. Embassy nor the Liberian Police team that was headed by one Sam Siryon, commonly know as 106 in the rank and files of the Liberian National Police.

The LNP's 106, who could not also talk to the press, was seen in a heated argument with Attorney-At-Law Cerenius Cephus over what the Taylor's lawyer called the illegality of their action.

Charles Taylor is standing trial in The Hague for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Sierra Leone.

The prosecution has packaged over 35,000 pages of "evidence" against the former Liberian leader.

Taylor for his part has consistently denied any link with the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone.

During his highly embattled regime, Taylor repeated accused the United States and its allies of conspiring to isolate and undermine his regime.

Solicitor General Tiawon Gongloe could not be reached for comment on the issue as his phone rang endlessly without response.

One of the Lawyers of Charles Taylor, Sayma Cerenius Cephus, who read copy of the writ, told this paper that the men were authorized by the court to enter Taylor's house, sit in his chair, take photos and re-establish crime scenes.

He however questioned the motive of the searchers to enter the home of the ex-president who is on trial on Sunday, and not an ordinary working day.

Public Agenda could not however obtain a copy of the writ.

When Sando Johnson and other loyalists of Taylor stalled further search of White Flower by the combined team of LNP and U.S. Securities, the three-van convoy of the U.S. Embassy slowly made its way from the Taylor compound amidst thunderous boos from bystanders.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy could not be reached for comment on the issue.

However, investigation continues.

TAYLOR'S RESIDENCE SEARCHED AGAIN!



Former Pres. Charles Taylor

Report reaching this paper has revealed that some officials of the Special Court have reportedly searched the residence of detained former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, in Congo Town. The Court officials backed by heavy armed personnel of the Liberia National Police reportedly searched the com-

ound for about forty-five minutes. This action by the court officials to search the compound of Taylor has been described by one of Taylor's associates, John T. Richardson, as illegal because according to him the search was done without the consent of the

Taylor's family. Richardson believes that something may have been planted within the building and called on government to provide the explanation. Meanwhile, the court officials have denied ever entering the compound of the detained former Liberian President.

The search team said they stood outside arranging for, Sando Johnson, former Bomi County representative and spokesman of the Taylor's family to serve the warrant. Taylor has been indicted by the UN backed Special Court of Sierra Leone for

Cont'd on Page 6

TAYLOR

war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone.

Taylor is currently facing trial at Hague in the Netherlands, on a 11 count charge.

The former Liberian President has denied all of the charges and also denied his involvement into the Sierra Leone crisis.

It can be recalled that during the disbanded Transitional Government, led by Charles Gyude Bryant, through the Ministry of Justice ordered the search of the residence of the former President.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
23 June 2008**

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

Newspaper Summary

World Bank Gives US\$10M Grant to Liberia

(The News, Daily Observer, Heritage, Public Agenda, The Monitor, The Inquirer)

- The media reports that the Liberian Government and the World Bank on Saturday signed a US\$10 million grant agreement in an effort to respond to the short and long term food needs of the country. Signing for the Liberian government, Finance Minister Antoinette Sayeh described the grant as an “illustration of the Bank’s continuous responsiveness to Liberia”.
- Explaining the context of grant, Liberia’s Agriculture Minister Dr. Chris Toe said it is to support national response to the food crisis. Dr. Toe said there are three components of the grant including short and long term assistance to government’s efforts in addressing the impact of rising food prices.
- The Vice President for operation policy and country services at World Bank, Jeffrey Gutman said the grant is indicative of the partnership between Liberia and the Bank. Mr Gutman said the current food crisis was a global issue and a global problem for which the World Bank was “responding quickly because time is of the essence”. He indicated that the quick response from the World Bank was necessary so that the population is “not severely affected by the food crisis”.

UN Extends Liberia's Arms Embargo

(Public Agenda, The News)

- The United Nations Security Council has unanimously extended Liberia's arms embargo mandate until 20 December, complaining that the situation in the country continues to threaten international security. In 2007, the council lifted an embargo on Liberia's diamonds and timber. The ban was put in place to prevent rebel groups in Liberia and Sierra Leone from using proceeds of natural resources [blood-diamonds] to acquire arms and ammunition.
- The council said Liberian government is encouraged to apply the recommendations emerging from the last evaluation in the context of the Kimberley process, working in close cooperation with the Council to reinforce controls on the trafficking of raw diamonds. The process, introduced by southern African countries in 2000, was meant to contain the illicit trade of diamonds to fuel arm conflicts in the world.
- The council further requested the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to renew until 20 December the mandate of a panel of financial experts and specialists that has been appointed to monitor implementation of the arms ban on Liberia, and assess progress made by the country in restoring its timber and diamond trade.

AFL Graduates Over 200 Non-Commissioned Officers

(Heritage, The News)

- The Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course of the Armed Forces of Liberia over the weekend graduated its 08-03 class of over 228 personnel at the Camp Sandee Ware Barracks near Careysburg outside Monrovia. According to the Chief U. S. Office of Security Cooperation in Liberia, the course is a leadership training which focused largely on small unit formations. Lt. Col. William Wyatt said the basic components of the training include mission accomplishment and the welfare of soldiers.

- Lt. Col. Wyatt said twenty-five officer candidates would continue to the Officer Candidate School at the Barclay Training Centre for another six weeks. He said the U. S. government on a temporary basis, at the request of the Liberian government, would help with the feeding of the AFL for more than a year. Lt. Col. Wyatt also said it is difficult to obtain the twenty percent female participation in the restructuring exercise. He expressed optimism that the restructuring exercise of the new AFL would be completed.

Provisional Results of 2008 Census released –Liberia’s Population is 3.5 Million

(Daily Observer, The News, Heritage, The Monitor)

- A new population and housing census provisional results put Liberia at 3,489,072 people. The provisional results were released last Friday by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at the Foreign Ministry. The figure based on data collected door-to-door in May are in line with projections by development agencies in the absence of official figures during the 1989-2003 conflict that left 250,000 people dead.
- The last census, in 1984, put Liberia's population at 2,101,628. "The publication of the preliminary results of the 2008 national population and housing census are a key milestone in our quest towards rebuilding this country," President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told the nation. She said though the statistics are not final but the final report of the 2008 census will require quite some time to be compiled. "I recommend that these statistics be used in all development.

Phebe Hospital Receives 20 Mattresses from Lone Star

(The News, Heritage)

- The Phebe Hospital in Bong County over the weekend received 20 mattresses from the Lone Star Communications Company. Making the donation the Sales Support Representative of Lone Star said the donation is the company's way of identifying with the needs of the hospital. Mr. Pettiquoi noted that the donation of mattresses was part of the 21 days of care which he said has focused on humanitarian efforts. Receiving the items, the Medical Director of the Hospital, Dr. Garfee Williams thanked Lone Star for the donation adding that the gesture was timely. In recent weeks, Lone Star Cell has been engaged in humanitarian programmes mainly helping hospitals, schools and orphanages.

NBI Arrests Sierra Leonean on Drug Charges

(The Inquirer)

- The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) over the weekend arrested a man carrying two kilos of marijuana in the Duala Market area. Speaking to journalists at the weekend, the Chief of Public Affairs of the NBI, Wahab Darley said Usufu Kamara was arrested by agents of the NBI with 2 kilos of marijuana concealed in a rice bag. Darley said during questioning the suspect claimed he was given the two bags of gari (farina) containing the marijuana by a friend but did not know they contained narcotics. Meanwhile, the NBI Chief of Public Affairs said Kamara would be turned over to the Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Taylor’s Residence ‘Searched’ – Associates Say it’s illegal

(The Monitor, Public Agenda, National Chronicle)

- Reports say officers of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone have searched the residence of former President Charles Taylor in Congo Town.
- The Court’s officers backed by heavily armed personnel of the Liberia National Police reportedly searched the compound for about forty-five minutes. But an associate of Mr. Taylor, John Richardson, described the action of the court as illegal, saying it was done without the consent of the Taylor family. However, officers of the Court denied ever entering Mr. Taylor’s compound. The search team said it stood outside waiting for Sando Johnson, spokesman of the Taylor family to serve the search warrant.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

President Sirleaf in Nigeria for ECOWAS Summit

- An Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country for the 34th Ordinary Session of the regional body, ECOWAS to be held today in Abuja, Nigeria.
- The one day summit will, among other issues, review the performance of West African economy and the progress toward the work of the Millennium Development Goals.
- The review comes in the wake of the persistent rise in the price of oil and its adverse budgetary implications on most member countries of the region.
- The ECOWAS Heads of State and Government will also review security in the sub-region, with the aim of developing strategies for the consolidation of regional stability.
- The President will return to the country later today before leaving for Berlin, Germany on Tuesday to attend a Poverty Reduction Strategy Forum, scheduled to take place from June 25-28.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Forum to Review Cooperative Laws Opens in Monrovia

- The Ministry of Agriculture will today, Monday, begin a three-day National Roundtable Conference on updating the country's Cooperative Laws.
- The forum would also focus on the restructuring and rehabilitation of the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA).
- A statement said the discussion would enable the Agriculture Ministry, CDA and other cooperative stakeholders to formulate a cooperative development policy for Liberia.
- The Roundtable Conference is being organized by the Agriculture Ministry in collaboration with a Canadian firm.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Taylor Associate Reports Search By UN-Backed Special Court

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

PUL Holds Audio-Visual, Photojournalism Training

- The Press Union of Liberia will today open a two-day Audio-Visual and Photojournalism training in Monrovia.
- A PUL release said experienced Audio-Visual and Photojournalists would share knowledge on topics such as ethics and techniques in photojournalism.
- Thirty one journalists from newspapers and Television stations would benefit from the training which is intended to sharpen the skills and professionalism of journalists in the areas of photography.

Labour Minister Bashes Opposition Parties

- In an interview, the Minister of Labour, Samuel Kofi Woods says the silence of opposition political parties whose members have been linked to crimes against the state creates concern.
- Minister Wood said the silence gives the impression that the country would have been "chaotic" if any of these parties had assumed state power.
- He said up to present there are no punitive actions taken by these political parties against the two Senators accused of ex-judicial actions.
- The Labor Minister named Senator Roland Kaine of the Congress Democratic Change (CDC), linked to the killings in Margibi County and Liberty Party Senator, Nathaniel Innis, accused of assaulting his sister in law.
- He challenged the two political parties to conform to the democratic tenants of being responsible.
